Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as shown below in the complete listing of claims.

1.   (Canceled)

2.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 15, wherein the inclined surface consists of a defined area limited by guide edges and a drain to the at least one measuring instrument.

3.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the defined area is located on the inside of the tank of the washing machine.

4.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 15, wherein more than one inclined surface is used, arranged at different angles.

5.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 4, further comprising another measuring instrument wherein the signals from the measuring instruments correspond to different surfaces at different angles and are used for calibration or for internal reference of the measuring instruments.

6.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the determination of the amount of a draining film of washing liquor is performed over a defined time period in the at least one measuring instrument, the at least one measuring instrument comprising a storage vessel, which can be emptied in defined time intervals and is fed by the draining wash liquid.

7.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the determination of the amount of a draining film is performed over a defined time period by an optical fill level gauge, the at least one measuring instrument containing a storage vessel which can be emptied in defined time intervals and is fed by the draining wash liquid.

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8.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the lower end of the drain surface is arranged in such a manner that the draining liquid leaves it in the form of drops and a measured quantity is determined from the number of the drops per time unit and their size.

9.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein the end of the drain surface is designed in such a manner that a draining liquid film gathers to a continuous fluid stream, and the conductivity of this stream is determined by a suitable measuring instrument.

10.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 9, wherein a bottom portion serves as the first electrode and a collection vessel serves as the second electrode and that a parameter based on a geometry of the water stream, flowing from the discharge to the receptacle, is determined by a conductivity measurement.

11.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claims 2 or 10, wherein a capacitive sensor is used for measuring the drain behavior, the electrodes of the capacitive sensor being positioned outside the tank.

12.   (Previously Presented) The washing appliance according to claim 2, wherein a capacitive sensor is used for measuring the drain behavior, the electrodes of the capacitive sensor being positioned at the lower edge of the drain surface, in the drain, or in a collecting vessel in the at least one measuring instrument itself.

13.   (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 12, wherein the kind of the electrodes is designed in such a manner that a conductive measurement can be performed too.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Currently Amended) A washing appliance comprising:

a tank for loading washing liquor and items to be washed and having a wall defining an inside surface;

a drum rotatably mounted within the tank;

a controller carrying out a predetermined washing program;

spaced guide edges extending from the inside surface of the tank and converging to a drain to define therebetween an inclined drain surface provided on the inside surface of the tank to and collecting a portion of the washing liquor, and

at least one measuring instrument in communication with the inclined drain surface and assessing mechanical properties of such washing liquor collected on the inclined drain surface on the basis of the drainage behavior thereof.

16.   (Canceled)